



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON'S 2005 APPLE PRODUCTION LOWER; GRAPE PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH LEVEL

OLYMPIA, Wash., October 12, 2005-- **Apples** - Washington apple production, which makes up 58 percent of the U.S. total, is forecast at 5.40 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous forecast and 11 percent below last year. The apple harvest continues under very good weather conditions. Growers are reporting fruit size smaller than last year due to a cool spring and a very warm August. The final forecast for U.S. apple production for 2005 is 9.38 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the August 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2004. Decreases in production were shown for all seven forecasting States: Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. Growers in the Eastern, Central, and Western apple producing regions are expecting decreases in production compared to the August 1 forecast. In New York, fruit size is down due to hot weather and a lack of rain in August. High winds in eastern growing areas caused some fruit drop. Production is forecast 1.06 billion pounds, down 8 percent from the previous forecast and 17 percent below last year. Michigan's production decreased 15 percent from the August forecast and 8 percent from 2004. Hot weather during July and August accelerated fruit maturity but hindered color development. Harvest is running ahead of schedule for many varieties. Earlier dry conditions affected fruit size but late season rain is improving sizing. Fruit quality is generally high.

Grapes - Washington's grape production is forecast at 430,000 tons, up 15 percent from August 1 and 61 percent above a year ago. If realized, this will be the largest production on record, surpassing the previous high of 354,000 tons in 1993. The **juice type** grape forecast, at 305,000 tons, is 22 percent above August and up 91 percent from the small 2004 crop. With Niagara harvest complete and almost half of the Concords harvested, growers are expecting a larger crop than originally anticipated. **Wine type** grape production is forecast at 125,000 tons, unchanged from the August forecast but 17 percent above last year. Overall, cool temperatures this fall have lowered sugar content in some areas. U.S. grape production is expected to total 7.07 million tons, up 4 percent from the August 1 forecast and 13 percent above 2004. California leads the U.S. in grape production with 88 percent of the total. California's all grape forecast, at 6.24 million tons, is up 3 percent from the August forecast and 11 percent above a year ago. California's **wine type** production is expected to total 3.15 million tons, 50 percent of California's total grape crop. The production forecast for wine type varieties is up 7 percent from the August forecast and 12 percent above last season. Berry size is larger than originally expected due to late spring rains and a cool fall. New York's grape production is forecast at 158,000 tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but 11 percent above 2004. Growers in the Finger Lakes region experienced mostly dry conditions this season. The lack of rain kept berry size small, decreasing tonnage. However, sugar content remains high throughout the State.

FRUIT PRODUCTION: FRUIT SUMMARY, OCTOBER 1, 2005 1/

State	Apple Production		
	2003	2004	2005
	Million Pounds		
California 2/	450.0	390.0	410.0
Idaho 2/	70.0	90.0	65.0
Michigan	890.0	760.0	700.0
New York	1,070.0	1,280.0	1,060.0
Oregon 2/	133.0	163.0	130.0
Pennsylvania	442.0	405.0	420.0
Virginia	270.0	300.0	300.0
Washington	4,550.0	6,050.0	5,400.0
Other States 2/	918.1	981.9	894.1
United States	8,793.1	10,419.9	9,379.1

1/ In orchards of 100 or more bearing age trees.

2/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

State	Grape Production			State	Grape Production		
	2003	2004	2005		2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Tons				1,000 Tons		
California, All	5,861	5,615	6,240	Michigan	94.5	62.5	99.0
Wine Types	2,909	2,815	3,150	New York	198	142	158
Table Types 2/	732	770	790	Oregon 1/	24.0	24.0	23.0
Raisin Types 2/	2,220	2,030	2,300	Pennsylvania	85.0	86.8	85.0
Washington	344	267	430	Other States 1/	37.0	34.4	35.9
Wine	112	107	125	United States	6,643.5	6,231.7	7,070.9
Juice	232	160	305				

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

2/ Fresh basis.

To access the entire release point to: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/appgrape.pdf>

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